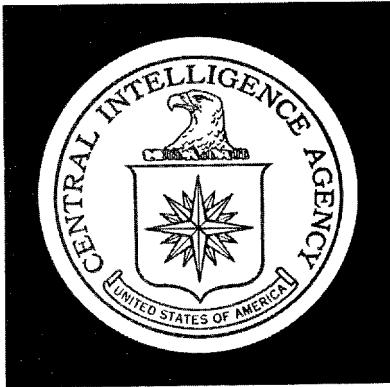


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Communist China - USSR: The Chinese are pushing ahead with an increasingly violent campaign apparently aimed at driving the Russians out of Peking.

The Soviet Embassy in Peking remains under a virtual state of siege and the Chinese appear to be taking steps to make the situation there intolerable. According to press reports no Soviet diplomats have left the embassy since yesterday, when the Chinese warned embassy personnel to remain inside the compound in order to avert "serious incidents."

East European diplomats, who have been taking in food and other necessities to the beleaguered Russians, have been warned that their safety cannot be guaranteed if they persist. In this connection, Mongolian and other diplomats reportedly raised the question of diplomatic immunity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Chinese Foreign Ministry representatives replied that this was a "remnant of bourgeois institutions," and that a country carrying out a revolution "does not recognize bourgeois norms."

The embassy has been without its Chinese labor force since late last month. Operation of the installation, already difficult, will be impossible after fuel and food supplies run out. The Chinese could make the situation untenable even sooner by cutting off water and electricity.



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The Soviets are still hanging on, apparently hoping to ride out the current crisis. The TASS correspondent in Singapore told another newsman on 1 February that Moscow would not take the initiative in a break. The Soviets, however, may be planning as a last resort to withdraw their diplomats entirely without formally breaking relations.

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Chile: Senatorial stalling on President Frei's proposed constitutional revision makes its ultimate adoption doubtful.

Although Frei's amendment allowing a president to dissolve congress and call new elections was approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 1 February, the Senate will not vote on it until April. By that time, municipal elections will have been held and the outcome will affect the fate of the bill. If Frei's Christian Democratic Party makes a poor showing, his enthusiasm for early congressional elections will diminish.

In the meantime, the Senate appears to have shifted ground on the issue that provoked Frei's proposal. Socialist Senator Salvador Allende, the pro-Castro president of the Senate, reportedly stated on 7 February that the Senate will place no further obstacles in the way of foreign travel by President Frei, now that it has humiliated him by forcing cancellation of his US visit.

Because of the Senate's negative vote on his own travel, Frei has not yet decided whether Foreign Minister Valdes will attend the inter-American meetings in Buenos Aires next week. However, the US ambassador in Santiago expects Valdes to go.

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Ethiopia: Ethiopian officials are hinting that, to get Soviet agreement to halt arms deliveries to the Somali Republic, Emperor Haile Selassie may have to agree to a smaller US role in Ethiopia.

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He goes to Moscow on 27 February after his visit to Washington, where he will probably raise the question of his need for military hardware to meet the threat to his empire he sees developing in the Red Sea basin.

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Congo (Kinshasa) - Belgium: For the first time since early December, President Mobutu is in direct communication with Union Miniere and the companies associated with it. Both sides think an agreement may be possible on the basis of the Belgian group's proposal for an international "association" to mine and market the Congo's copper under contract. Nevertheless, the two sides still differ over several major points.

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